

THE HICKMAN COURIER.

Convicts for Road Work.

Our roads in this section are all, with a few exceptions, common earth highways, quagmires in the winter and spring, and washed in to gullies by rains in the summer. They could be materially improved by a judicious system of working under expert superintendents, but they must be drained, gravelled or macadamized to convert them into really good roads. This cannot be done under the present rude and slovenly method of working, but it could be effected under a thoroughly organized system, with convict labor employed under the direction of skillful and experienced road-masters. Such a method of employing the State prisoners would avoid the trouble of bringing cheap convict labor in competition with honest working-men, and if humanely managed would not be a hardship to the prisoners. Counties desiring to improve their roads could make a requisition on the prison warden for a gang of prisoners to be fed at the county's expense and worked under its own road-master. In this way the roads could be built at less than half the cost, and in a few years the State would have a system of highways imparting to property an increased value far greater than its cost.

Soon After the Election.

The 38,165 votes cast for Judge Fox, the prohibition candidate for State treasurer, do not represent the prohibition strength in the State. Its full strength will never be developed until it is presented as an issue. When it is brought before the people entirely free of party embarrassments—as a cold bare issue—then it will succeed, and not till then.

The scarcity of one and two dollar-notes is due to the fact that the United States treasury has suspended the printing of those denominations, and since August 12 no small notes have been paid out by the treasury. In lieu of them the treasurer is paying out silver dollars and fractional currency. But how to account for the scarcity of silver dollars, is now the question.

"The embezzlements, defalcations and robberies in the Federal offices at New Orleans since the close of the war foot up something over one million five hundred thousand dollars." It should be remembered, however, that the cash in the Treasury balances to a cent.

The Covington Commonwealth has discovered in the latest Auditor's report that sixty-six counties, more than one-half of the whole number in the State, return each more voters than there are males over twenty-one years old in the State. This shows something radically wrong, for it may be seen that such a thing is an impossibility.

The National Sportsmen's Convention convened at St. Louis, Sept. 29th, 1885, the object of which is to make more uniform game and fish laws in the different States, and see that they are properly enforced. A grand program is being arranged for the entertainment of visitors from different clubs.

A law and order club has been organized in Rowan county. It is composed of good citizens, and they pledge their best efforts in bringing the evil doers to justice. Court is in session, but is unable to do any effective work. The grand jury has found nine indictments for murder.

The latest swindle discovered relating to spurious money is the split band note fraud. A \$20 bank note is taken and by some ingenious method the note is split in two and the raw side "doctored up," and each half is passed off as a genuine \$20 note.

Spain is in a stew because Germany has taken possession of the Caroline islands, claimed under a protectorate by Spain. The Spanish are holding meetings and protesting against Germany's act and are in all respects very beligerent.

A RAID was made on the keno banks in Louisville Thursday night and the proprietors of the houses put under bond. The furniture was all taken to police headquarters. The warrants were sworn out at the instance of the Law and Order Club.

THERE is a boy in Clark county fourteen years old who stands six feet and a half in his shoes. If he continues to grow until he arrives at manhood, he will make a good fruit gatherer, and save the use of a step ladder.

THE New York Sun says the project to build a national monument to General Grant in New York will fail. People outside of New York City will not contribute for the purpose.

It is said on good authority that the outlook in the iron trade has not been more favorable for a number of years than at present. Signs of improvement are coming to the surface every day.

MORMON agents have succeeded in concluding arrangements with Mexico for the cession of extensive tracts of land in Chihuahua and Sonora, which will soon be occupied by the latter day saints.

The same fight will be had in Ohio that was made two years ago—that is blooded against Farmer.

THE GOOD BEING ACCOMPLISHED.

Abuses That Have Been Corrected.

The new broom is proverbially a clean sweeper, and this is as true in politics as in any other sphere of human activity. Long leases of power are not desirable for any party, for abuses will grow up under the best of them which are not likely to be corrected unless new hands are called in. While the assertions of frenzied Democratic orators for several years past that their adversaries had stolen everything portable at the capital have not been verified, enough has been discovered already to prove the wisdom of the people in making the change. To state the record may be said to state the following:

The administration has unlearned the extravagance, if not fraud, that has long prevailed in the agricultural department.

It has brought John Roach and other contractors to the knowledge that in their dealings with the government they must obey the laws and expect no favoritism. It has put an end to the schemes of the land-grabbers in the West, and restored to the public domain millions of acres which had been seized by corporations.

It has exposed the gross extravagance and frauds long practiced in the coast and geodetic surveys.

It has throttled the scheme to make Jay Gould and a few other rich men interested in steamship lines a present of \$400,000 for alleged mail service, which has been provided for in other ways without recourse to the subsidy.

It has reduced the force of employees in many branches of government service, thus saving several hundred thousand dollars in annual expense.

It has exposed and rectified a fraud in the issuance of rations to Indians by which the government has been defrauded of a million dollars in the last ten years.

These things are not political issues. They are business transactions, as easily supported by one party as another, and can in no sense be made questions for party contention unless the faculty of the party order whose administration of government they occurred it impels it to defend the abuses here exposed. Probably this will not be done. Parties are reluctant to admit the shortcomings of their members, but they are also slow to defend them in campaigns before the people. Whether there are other abuses to be corrected, or not remains to be seen, but if the present administration can accomplish nothing else it has already shown that a necessity existed for a new broom.

A Race War in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Aug. 23.—For months past a more or less bitter feeling has existed between certain white and black citizens of Humphreys County. Recently a negro who attempted to escape from a crowd who intended to administer a beating to him was shot, and next morning his dead body was found near his cabin. All efforts to discover the perpetrators of the crime were futile. Other negroes were taken out and brutally lashed, and yet no arrests were made. Information was received today that a mob of seven disguised men visited the house of Samuel Lowe, colored, in Duck River Bottom, and, presenting revolvers at the frightened man, dragged him from his bed. They conveyed him to the woods and administered more than a hundred blows with ironwood switches, lacerating his back in a horrible manner. West Reagan, colored, who had been secured by the mob before they found Lowe, was also beaten, being given twenty blows and ordered to leave the county, which he did at once. Lowe is seriously ill and will be unable to leave his bed for some days. John Gorin, a colored school teacher in the vicinity, found on his door a note warning him to leave the county or suffer the consequences. Gorin, who was very much alarmed, departed immediately. The best citizens of Humphreys County strongly condemn these outrages, and will call upon the Governor to offer a reward for the apprehension of the guilty parties.

Try It.

The expense of criminal prosecution in this State is enormous, increasing each year, and unless something is done to relieve the State of this burden before the next legislature it will be necessary that our taxes be raised to meet the rapidly increasing expenses incurred in the prosecution of criminals. Much of this expense should be paid by the counties. Whenever the disorder in a county becomes so great that it is necessary to call out the military aid of the State government to assist the courts in enforcing the law, the expense therefor, instead of being paid out of the treasury, ought to be paid by the county where the disorder broke out. Another large and increasing drain upon the State treasury is the transporting of prisoners to other county jails to escape real or imaginary mob violence. This is another item of expense in criminal prosecutions that should be paid by the tax-payers of the counties from whence the prisoners are sent.

The Purchase will send three lawyers and three farmers to the next Legislature. Four of the members have been in the Legislature before, but none of them were in the last body.—[Paducah Standard.]

If whisky is taken out of Ohio politics there would be nothing left.

THE BRANCH PENITENTIARY.

Gen. H. B. Lyon Talks About the Work.

From the Louisville Times.] Gen. H. B. Lyon, of Eddyville, is at the Louisville hotel. He will return to his home to-morrow. To a Times reporter who saw him this afternoon Gen. Lyon said: "There have been published many false reports about the Eddyville branch penitentiary. With statements of enormous expenditures have been made without the slightest foundation or fact. The appropriation made for the work is \$150,000, with expenditures limited to \$5,000 per month, and so far we have been unable to get even that much. We are working 145 convicts and 18 convicts. We have drawn a little less than \$35,000 up to date, and have vouchers for indebtedness out amounting to about \$12,000. In other words, we have expended about \$47,000 to date.

"It was also falsely stated that twenty-eight convicts escaped from the works during the month of June. The fact is that only twenty-one have made good their escape since the commencement of the work last October. About thirty-five have escaped altogether, but some fourteen of these were recaptured. The health of the convicts is very good. Only two have died at the works, one of a chronic case of lung trouble, and the other a boy who died from exposure.

"Yes, the work is very slow and tedious, and, besides, is proving very costly to the State. You see, 300 convicts and 50 stone-cutters could be worked just as well and without costing the State any more for guards and overseers. According to the limit it will require twenty months to complete the work. It is all in the hands of the commissioners, and none is given to contractors."

Views on Amusements.

From Elizabethtown News.]

EDITOR NEWS: Dear Friend: I notice in your issue of the 31st ult. a paragraph in regard to the difference between the assessed values in Hardin and Breckenridge, which is cited as evidence of the general defectiveness of our assessment laws. They are lamentably defective and sadly in need of reformation which I have earnestly urged upon each legislator ever since I came to office, but it is not rather evidence of the inefficiency of the assessors and of the grossly unequal taxation to which our people are subjected by them.

Now Hardin was raised by the Board of Equalization 29 per cent. on its assessment for the year 1884, that is, it was found that its Assessor had placed the valuation 29 per cent. below a fair average of the whole State. The Assessor not regarding the lesson brings up almost exactly the same assessment for 1885, indeed, the valuation of lands is less than in 1884. Hence the Board of Equalization is again compelled to raise this valuation.

This will also serve to show the necessity for a Board of Equalization. The assessment of many counties is shamefully low and will naturally be so as long as an Assessor seeks to make himself popular by disregarding his oath, and this defect cannot be met or corrected except by some agency which shall revise the action of the various Assessors as compared with one another.

I do not write you this with any view to publication, but that you may for your own satisfaction and for future notice of such matters be able to refer to the necessary tables and reports and observe the gross inequality made in the burden of taxation by the unfair and unequal valuation placed by Assessors not only in different counties but even in the same county as between individuals.

Yours Truly, FAYETTE HEWITT.

The American Humane Association.

We have before us a copy of the "Doings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Humane Association," held at Pittsburgh. The main purpose of the organization is to prevent cruelty to animals—as in the transportation of live stock for market to see that the law requiring a proper supply of water is provided, and rests at stated periods, be respected—and also to aid in the suppression of dog fights, chicken fights, etc., work which appeals to the sympathy and support of all considerate people.

There are branch societies in several States, and the Association is evidently accomplishing much good. Take, for example, the report sent in by the Philadelphia society: "Our agent, detailed to inspect the arrival and shipment of stock, reports a marked improvement in their appearance and condition. The recently enforced plan of partitioning off the different classes of stock has greatly lessened the number of casualties resulting from the tramping of the strong upon the weak. Some time ago we secured the conviction of a drover who had loaded a car with cattle and sheep, and, as a result, 13 of the latter were found trampled to death. Of the 11,720 carloads of stock arriving at the West Philadelphia Proving Yard within the past year, only a very small percentage were found to have been injured in transportation. In cases where painful injuries have been sustained during transit, our agent sees to it that the suffering animals are promptly killed, the owners in every instance complying with his request to that effect."

GENERAL SCOTT conquered Mexico with 12,000 effective men. He fought six battles and was victorious in all.

A WONDER VERIFIED.

The Long Lost Ark of the Covenant.

From the Peasack Citizen.] The readers of the Citizen will read an article that appeared in the Nashville American last Friday, which we copy below, headed "The Cave of Biddabatchie," in which a most incredible tale of finding a small box and three petrified human bodies in a cave in Marion county, Ala., was told. The discovery was so wonderfully strange and the supposed contents of the box so marvellous, that while it impressed the more thoughtful with the possibility of its truthfulness, there is little credence given it by the average reader, doubtless from the fact that the people and the press have been so frequently imposed upon by unmitigated liars and unprincipled writers in a manner which is shameful and outrageous. It is the privilege of the Citizen to give to its readers further evidence in regard to this mysterious discovery, and to corroborate as herein given the truthfulness of the story as published in the American. We give the American's article:

TORRELO, Miss., Aug. 4, 1885.—In coming to Hamilton, the shire town of Marion county, Ala., the other day, I was reliably informed and greatly interested in a wonderful discovery recently made by one of the citizens of the county, Mr. J. W. Hadden. A few days since, while out hunting, Mr. Hadden saw in a cluster of bushes a snow-white fawn which he stealthily approached, hoping to capture it. The fawn suddenly blew up, and he picked it up, when it suddenly ran off a short distance and again stopped. Hadden again approached, when the fawn again retreated. This course was pursued by Hadden and the fawn until they reached a high bluff overlooking Biddabatchie river, some four miles east of Pearce's Mills, when the fawn suddenly disappeared over the edge of the bluff. Upon coming up, Hadden peered over the bluff, when to his astonishment he saw the fawn standing on a narrow bench, hundreds of feet below, near the root of a large cypress tree recently blown up. After much difficulty he succeeded in reaching the spot where the fawn was last seen, but the fawn was not in the range of his vision. Upon looking around he discovered that the pine in being uprooted disclosed to view a circular orifice in the bluff some three feet in diameter. Prompted by curiosity and a desire to catch the fawn, he provided himself with a torch and entered the cavern, and made a discovery that will not only immortalize himself and be a source of fabulous wealth, but will be of immense value and interest to the scientific men and biblical scholars of the world. Stretched out at full length upon the cave's rocky floor, lay the petrified bodies of three human beings—two males and one female—an oblong box, of curious and antique design, two feet long, eight inches wide and six inches deep, besides many other curiosities of smaller dimensions. Surprised and terror-stricken Hadden withdrew from the cavern and returned to his home. The next day Hadden returned with a trusted friend to the scene of his discoveries and removed the petrified bodies and other articles from the cave. The box, also petrified, was carefully removed from its resting place and broken, and found to contain a small earthen jar, a large roll of parchment and a brass rod. Now, the mystery is, to what race of people did these bodies belong? Of what race were these? The parchment manuscripts are undoubtedly written in the Hebrew language. Many theories have been advanced by our people, but the most plausible one that I have heard is that the bodies are of Hebrew origin, that the box is the long-lost ark of the covenant, the rod the veritable Aaron's, the jar the pot of manna and the parchment manuscripts the seven lost books of the Old Testament.

The scene of this wonderful discovery is one of sublime and picturesque grandeur. Hundreds of feet above huge masses of rock lift their hoary heads high in the air, while far beneath are the limpid waters of the Biddabatchie on their way to the gulf, "gurgling kisses to the pebbled shore." Mr. Hadden has carefully boxed his treasures and will start immediately for Washington, D. C., where he will deposit them in the Smithsonian Institution.

Now, Mr. Editor, this wonderful discovery is no "Joe Mulhatten yarn," but can be fully substantiated by calling on or addressing the following parties of Hamilton, Ala.: J. C. Hamilton, judge probate court, Mr. James H. Gast, editor Marion County Herald, and Col. James Pearce, on whose plantation the wonderful discovery was made.

J. W. S.

LONDON furnishes a new scandal in high life every day. Our English cousins are getting entirely too scandalous. The state of affairs in the royal household, as disclosed by the Pall Mall Gazette and by more recent revelations from other sources, indicate a moral rotteness which certainly could not have been expected in a country which claims to possess, and really does possess, the highest civilization the world has ever known.

It looks now as though Dr. Leofard, the prohibition candidate for governor of Ohio, before he gets through with the canvass, will need as much protective padding as a base ball catcher.

The story of the rupture between the president and Mr. Tilden is denied by Smith M. Weed, and is not credited by the knowing ones in Washington.

Married While Sitting in a Buggy.

From the Pullmanian.] On last Sunday evening it was rumored on our streets that a wedding party was in the city, and, knowing of men and boys gathered on the sidewalks and street corners to get a glimpse of the contracting parties. It turned out, however, to be something more than rumor—a settled fact, but a single thought, the two hearts that beat as one, were Mr. Sid House, of near Wingo, Hickman county, Ky., and Miss Retta Cunningham, of the same neighborhood. The intended bride and groom, with their attendants, remained over here until Monday morning when they repaired to the residence of Uncle Peter Mott, secured their license and were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. The ceremony was pronounced in the alley-way between the residences of "Squire Mott and W. T. Parker." Esquire Mott stood with one foot on the ground and the other resting on the hub of the buggy wheel, while the wedding couple remained in their buggy—the bride holding the lines until the time arrived for them to join right hands, when one of the attendants stepped up and took the reins.

The political sensation just now is a reported split between Mr. Tilden and Mr. Cleveland. The alleged break is reported from New York and with a great flourish by the Republican press.

MITCHELL, the drunken man who murdered his son at Greenville, Miss., by attempting to shoot an apple from his head, has been indicted by the grand jury and jailed without bail.

The prohibitionists of Ohio seem to be the disturbing element in Ohio politics now. The Republicans instead of pandering to them as heretofore have declared war on them.

A SOCIETY woman in New York is wearing deep mourning for her dog, which died three months ago, and uses black-edged cards and stationery solely on his account.

A NATURAL ice-house has been discovered in Clinton county. It is a cave and an abundance of ice can always be found in the cold cavern.

In a suit relative to the ownership of an oil well in Ballard county, the cost amounts to \$1,000, and the case is still pending.

Professional Cards.

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STOLEN! From Mt. Zion Church, five miles north of Union City, Thursday night, Aug. 13, One Dark Bay or Brown Mare, four years old, good size, breeding mark on thigh and little white on hind hoofs. Taken from sucking colt. Also, One Deep Bay Horse, 8 years old, 16 hands high, black mane and tail, a natural pacer, with right eye out, and a visible water and split in right hoof from hair down. A liberal reward will be paid for any information leading to their recovery, or \$25 for delivery of mare and \$20 for delivery of horse at our farms near Woodland Mills, Tenn.

W. H. CURLIN, R. G. TYLER, aug 22-24

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HICKMAN, KY., Aug. 7, 1885.—[Sm]

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IMPORTANT! DEMOCRAT.

A fine Jack, for Sale, at the residence of the late J. N. McGEHEE. If not sold privately, before Sept. 5th, 1885, will be sold publicly, on that day, to the highest bidder, together with other stock, farming implements, Blacksmith Tools, &c. For particulars, apply to Wm. McGEHEE, Cayce, Fulton County, Ky.

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Special Notice. All persons indebted to the firm of Bondurant & Dewry, will please come forward at an early day, and make settlement. Office at E. Collins drug store—Alexander & Maxwell's old stand. BONDURANT & DEWRY. Hickman, Ky., Feb. 12, 1885.

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